



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,197	11/12/2003	Philip L. Camillocci	132387IT/YOD GEMS:0230	5978
7590	07/26/2005		EXAMINER	
Patrick S. Yoder FLETCHER YODER P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289			KASZTEJNA, MATTHEW JOHN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

88

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/706,197	Applicant(s) CAMILLOCCI ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Kasztejna	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 4,380,998 to Kieffer, III et al.

In regards to claim 1, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover for use with an endoscope, comprising: a body 41 having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an insertion portion of the endoscope (see Fig. 2).

In regards to claim 2, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover, wherein the recessed portion presents a tapered profile with respect to a longitudinal axis thereof.

In regards to claim 3, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover, wherein the body comprises an open cell foam as it is disclosed a relatively soft material or the like is used (see Col. 3, Lines 20-45).

In regards to claim 4, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover, wherein the body further comprises a channel coupled to the recessed portion such that the channel and recessed portion extend through the body (see Fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3739

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,380,998 to Kieffer, III et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,514,074 to Yabe et al.

In regards to claims 6-7, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover having a body 41 having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an insertion portion of the endoscope but is silent with respect to a disinfecting compound integral to the body. Yabe et al. teach of an analogous apparatus having an antibacterial agent is coated on the endoscope cover 2A (see Col. 4, Lines 35-40 and Col. 12, Lines 1-6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to coat the cover of Kieffer, III et al. with an antibacterial agent to help prevent the growth of unwanted bacteria as taught by Yabe et al.

Claims 5, 8-13, 15-29, 31-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,380,998 to Kieffer, III et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,458,133 to Yabe et al.

In regards to claims 5, 8-13, 15-18, 22-29, 31-36, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover having a body 41 having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an insertion portion of the endoscope but is silent with respect to the body including an indicium configured to indicate a contamination condition. Yates et al. teach of an analogous cover for an endoscope wherein an indication device for indicating whether or not an apparatus should handle a clean area in a sterile state or other area is

Art Unit: 3739

provided on each of the components (see Col. 4, Lines 36-67). Furthermore, Yates et al. teach of using the indicia to help an operator recognize whether he is working with a sterile apparatus or a contaminated apparatus. The indication means for indicating whether an area is a clean or a general area of the cover type endoscope apparatus is not limited to being a blue or yellow tape. Rather, in the indication means, colors to be displayed and display areas may be appropriately combined. Also, the indication means is not limited to being a color display, but symbols or characters may be used, or a combination of symbols and characters may be used. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to apply an indicium to the appropriate covers of Kieffer, III et al. in order to allow easy recognition of the contamination status of the apparatus as taught by Yabe et al. The apparatus of Kieffer, III et al. and Yabe et al. is considered to be inherently capable of performing the recited method claims.

In regards to claims 19-21 and 37-40, Kieffer, III et al. disclose a cover wherein the first and second cover members comprise an impact absorbing material and may comprise an open cell foam or plastic material (see Col. 3, Lines 20-68).

Claims 14 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,380,998 to Kieffer, III et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,458,133 to Yabe et al. in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0013510 to Moriyama.

In regards to claims 14 and 30, Kieffer, III et al. and Yabe et al. disclose a cover having a body 41 having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an

Art Unit: 3739

insertion portion of the endoscope but is silent with respect to the body including an indicium having a raised surface with respect to the body. Moriyama teach of an analogous apparatus wherein an identification part is used to determine if an instrument is suitable for sterilization. Furthermore, Moriyama teach the indicium capable of being identified by seeing or touching from any direction. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include a raised surface as the indicium in the apparatus of Kieffer, III et al. and Yabe et al. to provide the operator tactile feedback as taught by Moriyama.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,042,266 to Cheslock et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Kasztejna whose telephone number is (571) 272-6086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3739

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJK

MK

7/21/05

Beverly M. Flanagan
BEVERLY M. FLANAGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER